

Watkins in Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. After a lengthy illness she departed this life on May 2, 2000.

She attended the Chambliss Children's House Elementary School and completed high school on the campus of Tuskegee Institute. Mr. James' mother and father were avid tennis players. Dorothy and her sister Aubrey became involved in the sport at an early age. Dorothy continued to play tennis in high school, and was also a drum major-ette in the Tuskegee Institute Band. Additionally, she played piano and was a student of the daughter of Booker T. Washington.

While attending college at Tuskegee Institute, she met and married her husband of thirty-six years Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. of Pensacola, Florida and they were married until his death in 1978. As the wife of an Air Force officer, she lived in many locations in the United States, Asia, and Europe. She was involved in numerous charitable endeavors and most proud of her contributions to what is now known as the Air Force Village Retirement Communities. She was a loyal and dedicated supporter of the Air Force community and family support programs.

Dorothy and Daniel were blessed with a daughter and two sons and she guided each through the formative years of their lives. As a result of her love, care and persistence and guidance, each has enjoyed a rich and rewarding life. She will be missed by all who have known her for her quiet selfless dedication to family, friends and community.

She is survived by her daughter Danice D. Berry, son-in-law Dr. Frank W. Berry, Jr.; son Major General Daniel James III, and daughter-in-law Dana M. James; son Claude A. James and daughter-in-law Diane James; granddaughters Jamie Michelle Berry and Brittany Diane James; grandsons Frank W. Berry III, Max S. Berry and Ryan N. James; a sister Aubrey W. Simms and brother-in-law Robert H. Simms; a niece and nephew, and many devoted extended family and friends.

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY—A TRIBUTE TO MARIANNA MALM

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, this week America observes the 15th annual National Teacher Appreciation Week and celebrates the vital role that teachers play in the lives of our children. Today is also National Teacher Day, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all American educators. I would also like to recognize one teacher in particular, Marianna Malm, who teaches English at North High School in Fargo, North Dakota. Marianna was chosen to be the Teacher of the Year from my home state of North Dakota, and on behalf of the entire state, I would like to thank her for her dedication to our children.

All of us, whether as children or as parents, are aware of the positive role that teachers play in our lives. Despite that fact, there is a growing disconnect between our admiration for educators and our willingness to take the steps required to recruit and retrain them. In North Dakota, the recruitment and retention of teachers has rightfully become a dominant topic of discussion, especially after news stories have reported that nearly one-third of the state's public school teachers are older than 50 and nearing retirement.

From my kindergarten days in Valley City all the way through law school at the University of North Dakota, I was blessed to have been influenced by teachers who cared enough about me and their vocation to engage my interest in the vast world opened up by education. As these educators and others begin to retire in numbers we have never before experienced, we must reassess our federal, state and local policies to attract and retain quality teachers.

First and foremost, we need to reevaluate our own priorities. Just as North Dakota's farmers invest in their crops, knowing that better seeds produce a better yield, we as a state must ensure our children's future by investing in high-quality teachers. This nation's greatest natural resource is our children—and those who dedicate their lives to their education should be appropriately rewarded for their commitment.

Keeping four-star teachers like Marianna in North Dakota schools is a challenge, particularly in more rural regions of the state. I have cosponsored legislation, the Rural Teachers Recruitment Act, which would establish grants for rural school districts to develop teacher incentive programs. While the "Information Age" has opened up an entirely new world for rural schools, no computer or internet connection can replace a committed teacher. Every school district, no matter how big or how small, should be built on quality teachers.

The changing face of North Dakota's countryside will continue to affect our classrooms. We should use this time of change to remember the importance of a top-notch education and the teachers who make it happen. We cannot continue the pattern of training our educators in top-quality North Dakota universities only to lose them to other states with higher teacher salaries. There is no profession more important to America's future, and North Dakota's future, than teaching.

During National Teachers Appreciation Week, we need to take the time to say thank you to those who taught us when we were children and to those who teach our children today. This week and every week, we should express our gratitude to our quality teachers like Marianna Malm by working hard to keep them in North Dakota schools.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER M. JOSEPH BARDEN UPON HER RE- TIREMENT

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 2000, Sister M. Joseph Barden will be retiring after twenty-nine years of faithful service to an entire generation of America's youth. Since 1971 Sister Joseph has led Ascension Catholic School, in Melbourne, Florida as its principal.

Since beginning her commitment to educating children in Catholic schools while living in Ardee, Ireland in 1957, Sister Joseph has touched the lives and influenced the hearts and minds of thousands of children.

During her tenure at Ascension School, enrollment nearly tripled. Sister Joseph oversaw the renovation and construction of a brand

new educational facility, and assisted the school in receiving initial accreditation in 1973 and continuing accreditation three more times.

In 1985, the school received the "Exemplary School Award" from the United States Department of Education, while she continued to help and encourage her students to receive many local, state, and national awards. She initialized prekindergarten classes and "Extended Care Programs," to increase the positive role that religious instruction and educational excellence has on our nation's youth. Sister Joseph enabled teachers and staff to offer at least twenty-four extra-curricular programs serving about four hundred students, encouraging them to use their special God given gifts and talents. Because of Sister Joseph, Ascension remains a school of excellence.

The thousands of students, parents, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public, whose lives she touched, owe Sister Joseph a debt of gratitude. After nearly three decades of service, I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Sister Joseph Barden on her retirement from the school.

God has richly blessed Sister Joseph's work, and I pray that He continues to bless her in her future service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Yesterday I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On H.R. 3577, increased authorization for north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project, introduced by the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON, I would have voted "yea."

On H. Con. Res. 89 recognizing the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, as a national symbol of contributions of Americans of German heritage, introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. MINGE, I would have voted "yea."

On H. Con. Res. 296, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the necessity to expedite the settlement process for discrimination claims against the Department of Agriculture brought by African-American farmers, introduced by the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. DICKEY, I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF THE CONFERRAL OF PAPAL HONORS ON REVEREND MONSIGNOR FREDERICK EID

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Reverend Monsignor Frederick M. Eid for being named a Prelate of Honor of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, a remarkable accomplishment. His conferral of Papal honors is the crowning achievement in a long and illustrious career dedicated to the Catholic faith and the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey.